



THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HALTWHISTLE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and of

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year, 1968

STAFF :

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Haltwhistle :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1968.

Little material change has taken place in the circumstances of the District during the year. Over a number of years the population changes have been small, but there has been a gradual redistribution with the growth of the town of Haltwhistle and a relative loss of population from the rural villages. This change appears to be inevitable as the need for labour in agriculture and forestry grows less and Haltwhistle offers increasing opportunities for employment, but it is to be hoped that the process will not go too far and that the rural villages will remain living communities.

Haltwhistle Rural District consists of the town of Haltwhistle, the only large centre, and an extensive rural area given over mainly to hill farming. Although the rural part is not very productive it is of great beauty and of historic interest, containing as it does part of the Roman Wall and Housesteads. Its attractions are known to relatively few, but there are more visitors every year and the Council hope to encourage increasing numbers. Haltwhistle is the administrative centre and offers a satisfactory range of employment. During the year the Board of Trade built one advance factory and planned a second, and when these are occupied there should be little risk of unemployment. The colliery at Bardon Mill, which is threatened with closure, is still in operation.

The mid-year population as estimated by the Registrar General is given as 6,900 being an increase of 210. The new Training College at Ridley Hall accounts for part of this, but an increase was so unexpected after many years of gradually reducing population that an explanation was asked for. The estimate is adjusted in the light of the results of the 1966 sample census and review of the net migration figures and is not strictly comparable with earlier estimates. The true population will of course be known after the National Census of 1971. The vital statistics are not particularly favourable, as the birth rate is rather below, and the death rate rather above, the national figure ; giving a natural loss of population of 26, but no great importance can be attached

to one year in isolation. Two children died in infancy, and the infantile mortality rate was close to the national average. A new analysis of deaths by causes has been adopted and is applied to this year's return. 65 causes of death are listed compared with 36 previously, and while this allows more accurate definition it means that a strict comparison cannot be made with previous years. In general however, there is no significant change, and the main causes of death are still diseases of the heart and circulation. The ages at death also show little change, with two-thirds of the deaths occurring at age 65 or over and one-third at age 75 or over, which is the highest age group classified.

Improved water supplies and sanitation, better housing and health education have all played a part in the virtual disappearance of the major infectious diseases, and the acceptance rate in the District for the immunisation of children is very high. Only about one third of children are vaccinated against smallpox, however, and adult vaccination is not without risk. Only two infectious diseases were notified during the year. There were 29 cases of scarlet fever, occurring sporadically and mild in nature. There were only eight cases of measles, and this low figure may be connected with the introduction of measles vaccination. While measles vaccine has not been so well accepted as the triple vaccine against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, the number of children protected has been satisfactory, and another childhood disease which causes few deaths but a good deal of ill health from its complications, can now be brought under control.

The new Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations came into operation on 1st October, 1968. Their main provisions are that acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, acute rheumatism and puerperal pyrexia are no longer to be notified, while infective jaundice, tetanus, leptospirosis, and yellow fever become notifiable.

The large scheme of Council development in Haltwhistle was completed during the year and has provided 88 houses. The only immediate plan is to build eight old people's bungalows adjacent to Greenholme, where they can come under the warden service that has been so successful. On account of planning difficulties elsewhere and because most people

wish to be rehoused in Haltwhistle it seems unlikely that family houses will be built in the villages. There still remain 83 applicants for general purpose houses and 55 applicants for old peoples houses, and the need for Council housing has not yet fully been met. In the villages the aim must be to retain property while bringing it up to modern standards, as any house lost is unlikely to be replaced. The Council have encouraged this policy by their support of discretionary grants, and some 350 houses have now been improved. In 1968 42 grants were approved, the highest number in any one year, and with the extension of sewage disposal facilities it is to be expected that the demand for grant aid will continue. Standard grants have been less well received, but have made a useful contribution to improve housing conditions.

The greater part of the District is supplied with mains water of satisfactory quality and quantity, by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. Regular samples are taken, and the results are made known to the Health Department. The only unsatisfactory samples were from the Slaggyford supply, and after adjustment of chlorination, check samples were satisfactory. The few private and proposed supplies remain the responsibility of the Council, and a few samples were taken during the year. In the case of unsatisfactory results advice is given. One chemical sample was taken by the Company during the year, and the only significant findings were that the water is of low plumbo-solvency and of low fluoride content at 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million. Details of the number of houses and the population served by water from public mains are contained in the Public Health Inspector's section of the Report.

During 1968 work continued on the sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for Henshaw and Bardon Mill, and Greenhead and Bankfoot, and extensions to the works at Haltwhistle were approved. With these schemes completed it can be said that the District is adequately provided with sewage disposal facilities, except for a few small centres of population for which improvements are planned.

The owner of the single Common Lodging House in the area surrendered his Licence during the year. The premises conformed to the Model Bye-Laws, but with increasing difficulty as time passed and the need for this type of accommodation is not now apparent.

The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee continue to show their interest in the work of the Health Department, and I am grateful to them for their help and encouragement. I should like to record my thanks to the Clerk and other Officers for their co-operation and to the Staff, especially to the Public Health Inspector, who has carried out the day-to-work of the Department with quiet efficiency.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres. The only town is Haltwhistle, the other centres of population being villages.

The estimated population for 1968 is 6,900, which is an increase of 210 from 196

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1968, was 2,380.

The rateable value at 31st March, 1968, is £165,145.

The sum represented by a penny rate at 31st March, 1968, is £646 15s. 1d.

The following is a list of persons employed in various industries in the district.

	<i>Males and Females over 15 years of age</i>			
Mining and Quarrying				370
Paint, Varnish, Chemical and other Manufacturers				700
Distributive Trades				280
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ..				140
National and Local Government ..				82
Professional Services				190
Building Trades				290
Transport and Garages				180
Miscellaneous				120

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the Haltwhistle Rural District estimated at 30th June, 1968, was 6,900.

Birth Rate

There were 73 live births, giving a birth rate of 12.17 per 1,000 population when the comparability factor is applied. It compares with 16.9 per 1,000 population for all England and Wales.

Of the total of 73 live births, 3 were illegitimate. There were no still births, compared with 1 in 1967.

Infantile Mortality

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year. The infant mortality rate is 25.75 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 27 per 1,000.

General Death Rate

A total of 99 deaths occurred during 1968, an increase of 14 on 1967. When the comparability factor is applied, the death rate is 13.49 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.9 per 1,000.

16 deaths were due to Cancer, compared with 14 in 1967.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

Live Births :

Number	73
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	12.17
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.11

Stillbirths :

Number	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil
Total Live and Still Births	73
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	2

Infant Mortality Rates :

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ..	25.75
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.75
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per, 1,000 total live births)	Nil
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	Nil
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) :	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

(a) HALTWHISTLE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Surgeon :	Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Gynaecologist :	Mr. D. T. Barber, F.R.C.S.
Physician :	Dr. J. B. Ryder, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Matron :	Miss E. M. Armstrong.

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the Management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

(i) *X-Ray Department.*

X-Ray examinations are carried out Thursdays at 1-30 p.m.

Consultant Radiologist : Dr. W. Davidson.

(ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*

First Tuesday every month at 11-30 a.m.

(iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*

Wednesdays, 12 noon.

(iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*

Alternate Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

(v) *Physio-Therapy Department.*

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-30 — 5 p.m.

(b) HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred there and such special facilities as Physiotherapy are available.

(c) CARLISLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

WALKERGATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.

Tuberculosis Service

(a) CHEST CLINICS

Hexham General Hospital — Tuesdays from 9 a.m.

Tuberculosis Officer—Frederic L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S.

Tuesdays 2—4 p.m.

Friday 5—6-30 p.m.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

(i) *Wooley Hospital.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high, and there is now no waiting list for admission.

(ii) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 Children's beds are available.

Midwifery Service

(a) *Ante-Natal Care.*

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Clinic by the local doctors.

(b) *Haltwhistle Hospital.*

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

(c) *Domiciliary Service.*

Two midwives reside at 1 Bridge Street, Haltwhistle (Telephone 368).

Two cars are provided for the use of the Nurses in attending cases in this extensive district.

Home Help Service

The County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district.

Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required in cases of illness, but priority is given to domiciliary maternity cases.

More and more use is being made of the Service by old people and the chronic sick.

County Orthopaedic Service

The Orthopaedic Clinic for Children is held at Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month at Hexham General Hospital and on the second Wednesday of every month at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic.

Child Welfare Service

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Clinic every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

Clinics are also held at Gilsland and Halton-Lea-Gate every fourth Friday.

School Dental Clinic

Clinics are held every Monday and Thursday, and Friday of alternate weeks at Haltwhistle Clinic. The Dentist visits the various schools in the district.

Dental Officer — Mr. I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.

Public Health Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory, under the Director, J. H. Hale, is located at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance service is maintained and run by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Division, for the Northumberland County Council, and members of the Nursing Division act as attendants when required.

During the year 1968, 6,461 cases were handled, made up as follows :—

<i>Cases Transported by Ambulance :</i>			
Road Accidents..	.. 25	Mileage Covered ..	664
Other Accidents	.. 8	Mileage Covered ..	222
Invalids ..	.. 402	Mileage Covered ..	6,054
	<hr/> 435		<hr/> 6,940
<i>Car Sitting Cases</i>	<hr/> ..5,155	<i>Mileage Covered</i> ..	<hr/> 58,636
Total Cases ..	<hr/> ..5,590	Total Mileage ..	<hr/> 65,576

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths

Registrar : Mrs. F. Robinson.

Office : C.W.S. Building, Main Street,
Haltwhistle.

Hours : Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays :—
11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Thursdays :—2—3 p.m.

TABLE I

The following table shows the principal vital mortality rates for the year 1958-68.

YEAR	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living
1958	14.22	10.18	9.51	.00
1959	13.66	12.73	19.42	.00
1960	11.26	13.87	12.19	.00
1961	15.81	13.5	18.35	.00
1962	14.45	13.87	40.4	.00
1963	14.76	13.19	39.6	.68
1964	15.75	13.01	42.55	.68
1965	16.06	14.35	.00	.00
1966	16.05	10.22	31.91	.00
1967	14.78	11.44	11.62	.00
1968	12.17	13.49	25.75	.00

TABLE II.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE	YEAR									
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	25	2	3	1	21	5	15	58	17	29
Whooping Cough ..	—	1	—	—	1	32	—	—	12	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
Measles ..	8	12	266	—	79	112	96	15	147	8
Pneumonia ..	—	5	2	1	21	8	4	3	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	34	20	271	2	126	158	118	77	177	37

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age. Periods	NEW NOTIFICATIONS						DEATHS					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV.
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

YEAR	Registered Births					Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
	Live Births		Still Births			Live Births		Still Births		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
1958	51	53	1	2	107	1	2	—	—	3
1959	58	45	—	1	104	—	2	—	1	3
1960	42	40	1	2	85	1	3	—	1	5
1961	61	48	1	1	111	4	1	—	—	5
1962	45	54	2	1	102	1	1	—	—	2
1963	61	40	1	—	102	—	3	—	—	3
1964	55	39	1	1	96	2	4	—	—	6
1965	47	48	1	1	97	3	1	—	—	4
1966	57	37	—	1	95	—	—	—	—	—
1967	41	45	—	1	87	2	1	—	—	3
1968	44	29	—	—	73	—	3	—	—	3

TABLE V.
INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age.			Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of age		
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Legitimate ..	2	—	Legitimate ..	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	Illegitimate	—	—
	—	—		—	—
	2	—		—	—
	—	—		—	—

TABLE VI
CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	M.	F.	Total
Congenital Anomalies	1	—	1
Disease of Digestive System	1	—	1
	2		2

TABLE VII.
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus ..	1	1
Leukaemia	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	9	3
Diabetes Mellitus	1	—
Other Endocrine etc. diseases	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System ..	—	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	23	8
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	7
Cerebrovascular Disease	7	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	4	3
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	—
Appendicitis	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	1	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ..	—	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
All Other Accidents	—	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ..	1	1
TOTAL	56	43

TABLE VIII
AGES AT DEATH

	M.	F.	Total
Under 4 weeks	—	—	—
4 weeks and under 1 year ..	2	—	2
1 — 4 years	—	—	—
5 — 14 „	—	—	—
15 — 24 „	—	—	—
25 — 34 „	—	1	1
35 — 44 „	2	—	2
45 — 54 „	5	2	7
55 — 64 „	11	4	15
65 — 74	20	15	35
75 and over	16	21	37
	56	43	99

REPORT
of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
For the Year Ended 31st December, 1968

W. FORSTER,
M.A.P.H.I.

Duties :
Public Health.
Housing.

Meat and Foods.
Inspection.

Council House
Allocation.

Refuse Collection
and Disposal.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year, in conjunction with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, 93 samples of water were taken, 92 for bacteriological examination and 1 for chemical analysis. 90 samples were taken from public supplies and 3 from private supplies.

As will be seen from the following tables some samples taken from the Halton-Lea-Gate and Slaggyford supplies fell below the accepted standard. The supplies in both of these areas are permanently chlorinated, but as they are small and chlorinated manually, it is difficult to strike a balance between over and under chlorination due to the considerable variation in flow resulting from heavy rainfall. Whenever an unsatisfactory sample result is received the Company increase the chlorination and take check samples.

Including new houses 36 additional properties were connected to the public mains during the year.

Public Supplies

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SAMPLES

				No. of Samples Taken	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatis- factory
Haltwhistle	..	..	..	37	37	—
Melkridge	..	..	..	7	7	—
Gilsland ..	..	..	..	4	4	—
Greenhead	..	..	..	7	7	—
Bardon Mill	..	..	..	6	5	1
Henshaw..	..	..	..	2	2	—
Slaggyford	..	..	..	14	12	2
Halton-Lea-Gate	..	..	..	13	11	2
				90	85	5

Private and Proposed Supplies

3 samples were taken, the results of which are given below.

	No. of Samples Taken		Number Satisfactory		Number Unsatis- factory		Total Samples Taken
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Wardoughan Farm	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gilsland							
Whitfield Hall ..	1	1	1	1	—	—	2
	2	1	1	1	1	—	3

Details of Houses and Population Supplied from Public Mains

Parish	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bardon Mill ..	97	262	6	17
Coanwood ..	49	157	6	19
Featherstone ..	46	129	8	24
Greenhead ..	64	182	9	26
Haltwhistle ..	1,299	3,660	30	93
Hartleyburn ..	74	223	19	59
Henshaw ..	150	433	24	70
Melkridge ..	47	157	11	36
Plenmeller with Whitfield ..	27	86	2	6
Kirkhaugh with Knaresdale ..	66	208	1	3
Thirlwall ..	140	455	6	19
	2,062	5,952	122	372

Sources closed or discontinued — No. of Houses —

New Service provided :—

(a) By Local Authority .. Nil. No. of Houses Nil.
 (b) By Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company .. 36 No. of Houses 36
 (c) By Private Owner .. — No. of Houses —

HOUSING

Council House Building

Work on the Flowers Close scheme was completed during the year providing 30 general purpose houses.

New Houses Completed During the Year

New Houses completed during the Year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	30	—	30
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons ..	—	3	3
	30	3	33

Houses Under Construction at 31/12/68

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority Haltwhistle	—	—	—
(b) By other persons or bodies	—	9	9
	—	9	9

The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 597, of which 65 are for aged persons. This figure also includes the Warden's Flat at Greenholme Road and the Caretaker's Cottage at Greencroft Lodge.

Details of Council Housing Estates are shown in the following tables.

Details of Council Housing Estates as at 31/12/68
General Purpose Houses

ESTATE	TYPE OF HOUSE					TOTAL
	3 BR	3 BR Maison- ette	2 BR	2 BR Flat Ground Floor	2 BR Flat First Floor	
<i>Haltwhistle :</i>						
Greencroft	24	—	—	—	—	24
Greencroft Lodge	—	—	1	—	—	1
Park Road	31	—	—	—	—	31
Park Avenue	24	—	—	—	—	24
Central Drive	36	—	10	—	—	46
Greencroft Avenue	11	—	—	—	—	11
Fell View ..	—	—	16	—	—	16
Comb Hill Road	14	—	—	—	—	14
Moorland Avenue	26	—	—	4	4	34
Newholme Avenue	44	—	—	4	4	52
Fairholme Avenue	12	—	—	—	—	12
Capel Avenue	10	—	—	8	8	26
Castle Hill	—	—	2	—	—	2
High Row	—	—	3	—	—	3
Westlands	34	—	2	—	—	36
Railway Terrace	5	—	—	—	—	5
Burn Close	14	—	—	—	—	14
Woodhead Lane	—	—	—	8	8	16
Woodhead Close	—	18	—	6	—	24
Greenholme Close	—	20	—	10	—	30
Warden's Flat	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenholme Road	—	—	—	—	1	1
	285	38	44	40	25	422
<i>Longbyre :</i>						
Holyrood Place	2	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Greenhead :</i>						
Milburn Terrace	1	—	4	—	—	5
<i>Coanwood :</i>						
High Ridley	8	—	—	—	—	8
<i>Gilsland :</i>						
Rosehill ..	13	—	—	—	—	13
<i>Bardon Mill :</i>						
Broadacres ..	36	—	8	—	—	44
<i>Halton-Lea-Gate :</i>						
Leaside ..	30	—	8	—	—	38
	375	38	54	40	25	532

Aged Persons Dwellings

ESTATE	Bungalows	D. Smith Bungalows	Ground Floor Flat	First Floor Flat	Totals
Holmeside Cresc.	11	—	—	—	11
Meadow Close . .	12	—	—	—	12
Greenholme Rd.	—	—	16	16	32
D. Smith B'low's	—	10	—	—	10
	23	10	16	16	65

Council House Applications

At the end of the year there were 83 applications for general purpose houses and 55 for aged persons dwellings.

30 new houses were occupied during the year. As a result of casual vacancies a further 20 families were rehoused, 15 into general purpose houses, and 5 into aged persons dwellings. By exchanges of tenancies and transfers, 11 additional families were moved into houses more suitable to their needs.

In October the Warden of the Greenholme Aged Persons Flats resigned owing to ill health after a period of five years service and a new Warden was appointed in her place.

Improvement Grants

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

38 applications for discretionary grant were received during the year, the highest number since the scheme was introduced. Of the 42 properties involved 35 were owner occupied and 7 were tenanted, five being council owned. Grants amounting to £11,341 were approved.

During the year works of improvement were completed in respect of 27 properties and grants amounting to £8,458 were passed for payment.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1949 the total number of houses for which grant approval has been given is 349. Of this number 247 were for owner occupied properties and 102 for rented houses, 5 of these being council owned.

STANDARD GRANTS

16 applications for standard grant were received during the year, all of which were approved.

During the year standard amenities were provided in 7 properties and grants amounting to £1,272 were passed for payment.

Since this type of grant was introduced in 1960, 92 houses have been provided with standard amenities, of these 48 were owner occupied and 44 were rented premises, 16 of the latter being council owned.

Summary of Discretionary Grants Approved

Year	Number of Houses	Owner Occupied	Rented	Amount of Grant Approved £
1951	7	5	2	1142
1952	11	9	2	2424
1953	12	9	3	2585
1954	23	13	10	4239
1955	25	20	5	6203
1956	23	13	10	5089
1957	26	16	10	6160
1958	27	23	4	7391
1959	10	7	3	1964
1960	20	13	7	4256
1961	17	13	4	4097
1962	20	13	7	4344
1963	16	11	5	3994
1964	22	12	10	4494
1965	17	6	11	4471
1966	16	15	1	4434
1967	9	8	1	3162
1968	42	35	7	11201
	349	247	107	80367

Summary of Standard Grants Completed

Year	No. of houses	L.A.	Private	Owner Occupied	Rented	Basic Amenities provided				
						Bath	Wash hand basin	Hot Water Supply	Internal W.C.	Food Store
1959	2	—	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2
1960	6	—	6	4	2	3	3	4	4	4
1961	15	2	13	12	3	8	8	7	15	4
1962	22	13	9	7	15	6	21	6	9	5
1963	7	1	6	2	5	4	5	4	6	1
1964	16	—	16	8	8	11	14	12	16	13
1965	5	—	5	4	1	4	4	4	5	4
1966	5	—	5	1	4	4	4	4	5	3
1967	7	—	7	3	4	5	5	5	7	1
1968	7	—	7	6	1	5	5	5	7	5
	92	16	76	48	44	52	71	52	75	42

Unfit Houses

Action was taken under Section 16, Housing Act 1957, in respect of one house which was considered to be unfit for human habitation, as a result of which an undertaking was accepted from the owner stating that the property would not be re-let until it had been made fit.

In October all works of repair and improvement were completed in respect of a property at The Shanters, Lambley. The house was considered to be fit for habitation and an undertaking previously given in respect of the premises was rescinded.

Rent Act 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There is one licensed slaughterhouse, that operated by J. Norman & Son, at Portobello, Haltwhistle, in the district.

319 animals were slaughtered during the year, inspection was carried out in all cases and the carcasses were stamped in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963. In the absence of the Public Health Inspector, an Inspector from Hexham Rural District carried out the duties.

307 lbs. of carcase meat and offal were condemned during the year, and the figures in the accompanying tables give details of the meat condemned. It is worthy of note that in the 95 bovine carcasses the offals inspected there was no evidence of tuberculosis of *cysticercus bovis*.

Again the most common cause for condemnation was cirrhosis of liver, which accounted for 73% of the total weight of meat and offal condemned.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND
CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	95	—	—	184	40
Number Inspected	95	—	—	184	40
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	17	—	—	27	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	17.89	—	—	14.68	2.5
<i>Tuberculosis Only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number in spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	2.5
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

Summary of Carcase Meat and Offals Condemned

	Tuberculosis	Cysticercus Bovis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total
Cattle (ex- (excluding Cows) ..	—	—	224 lbs.	224 lbs.
Cows ..	—	—	—	—
Sheep and Lambs ..	—	—	67 lbs.	67 lbs.
Pigs ..	12 lbs.	—	4 lbs.	16 lbs.
TOTAL ..	12 lbs.	—	295 lbs.	307 lbs.

Disease or Condition				Weight of Meat Condemned Lbs.
Cirrhosis	..	..		224
Parasites	..	..		71
Tuberculosis	..	..		12
TOTAL	..	..		307

Summary of Unsound Food Surrendered or Seized

15 tins of cooked meat weighing 136 lbs. were certified as unfit for human consumption.

Food Inspection

212 visits to food premises were made during the year. The standard of cleanliness of both premises and personnel continues to be satisfactory.

There are a number of travelling shops and salesvans which visit various parts of the district and inspections have been carried out from time to time to ensure that hygienic practices are being complied with.

No prosecutions were taken under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations during the year.

Details of food premises in the area are shown in the following table.

During the year one public house, The Blue Bell Inn, Haltwhistle, was closed. Village schools at Henshaw and Beltingham were also closed and the pupils accommodated in a new school built in Henshaw. It can be noted that with the closure of the old buildings at Beltingham and Henshaw all schools in the district now have water borne sanitation.

Food Premises

TYPE OF PREMISES					
1.	Hotels and Inns	..	..	..	16
2.	Social Clubs and Public Halls	..			15
3.	School Canteens	..	..	..	10
4.	Works Canteens	..	..	..	3
5.	Butchers	..	..	..	5
6.	General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners	..	..	..	39
7.	Cafes and Snack Bars	..		..	5
8.	Fish and Chip Shops	..		..	1
9.	Wet Fish Shops	..	..	..	2
10.	Bakehouses	..	..	..	4
11.	Hospitals and Institutes..			..	2
12.	Ice Cream Manufacturers			..	2
13.	Mineral Water Factory	..		..	1
14.	Chemists	..	..	..	2
TOTAL					108

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the manufacture of Ice Cream	2
Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream.. .. .	28

Milk

Routine samples of milk have been taken regularly throughout the year by the County Health Department from all dealers who sell milk in the area. Samples have also been regularly taken of all milk supplied to schools. 20 samples were taken, 8 of which were of milk supplied to schools.

Brucellosis

3 samples were taken during the year of milk from farms from which untreated milk is sold by retail, in each case the *Brucella abortus* ring test proved negative.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Poultry Processing Premises

There are no poultry processing plants within the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and collections are made from practically all the reasonably accessible properties in the district.

A 12 cubic yard Karrier Bantam, rear loader, with driver and two loaders is used to collect from Haltwhistle Town and Plenmeller, while the outside district (Gilsland, Greenhead, Redburn, Melkridge, Bardon Mill, Thorngraston, Beltingham, Henshaw, Slaggyford, Park Village, Coanwood, Kellah, Lambley, Halton-Lea-Gate, Whitfield) is collected with a 7 cubic yard Ford Thames, side loader, operated by a driver and one loader.

All refuse is disposed of at Plenmeller with the exception of one half day's refuse per week which is tipped at Lambley. The Council employ a full time tip attendant, but this man has to be used as a relief loader in times of sickness and at holiday periods.

Refuse is collected from some 2,100 houses, approximately 90% of the inhabited houses in the district, and by estimated weight 2,700 tons of refuse are collected and disposed of yearly.

Over the last two years the pressures on the Town refuse collection service had been building up. The number of additional houses in Haltwhistle, more especially the Flowers Close Development, together with the increase in bulk of refuse from both domestic and business premises had greatly added to the problems of collection. For some years many houses in the Town had been given a twice weekly collection of refuse. During the early part of the year several of these had been gradually reduced to a once weekly collection, until in the main, the only houses which had a twice weekly collection were council houses.

From September all domestic premises in the town were given a once weekly collection, and while it was regretted that refuse could now only be collected once per week from those premises which were previously collected twice it was considered that because of costs and demands on labour, a weekly collection from domestic premises was reasonable.

There was unfortunately rather more time than usual lost because of sickness and it was necessary to employ temporary labour. On occasions it was not possible to obtain relief staff and for some periods the town vehicle was manned by two men instead of three. All credit must be given to the collection staff for the way in which they have carried out this arduous and dirty work in all types of weather.

Some time too was lost because of mechanical breakdowns on the refuse collection vehicles, and in September it was decided to replace the country vehicle which had been in use for eight years. It is anticipated that the new wagon will be available in the early part of next year.

Litter Act 1958

No proceedings under this Act were instituted during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	68	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	10	—	—
TOTAL	44	88	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—	—

Part VII of the Act

OUTWORK

Sections 110 & 111

There is one Outworker in the district engaged in embroidery. The premises have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

At the end of the year the number of factories on the register was 39 made up as follows :—

Joiners and Builders Premises	..	..	8
Garages and Motor Vehicle Repairs	..	7	
Radio and Television Repairs	..	..	2
Corn Mill	..	..	1
Bakehouses	..	..	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	2
Sanitary Pipe Works	..	..	2
Slaughterhouses	..	..	1
Sausage Manufacturers	..	..	4
Concrete Products	..	..	1
Mineral Water Factory	..	..	1
Egg Packing	..	..	1
Saw Mill	..	..	1
Gas Works	..	..	1
Plastic and Chemical Factories	..	..	2
Paint Works	..	..	1

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

The details of the premises registered and the numbers of persons employed in the various premises show very little change from the previous year.

204 visits were made during the year and all premises generally complied with the provisions of the Act.

Details of premises and persons employed are shown in the following tables.

Two accidents were reported during the year, both occurred in retail shops.

No prosecutions under the Act were taken during the year.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered During the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises Inspected During year
(a) Offices	—	13	13
(b) Retail Shops ..	—	42	42
(c) Wholesale Depts. Warehouses ..	—	—	—
(d) Catering Establish- ments open to the public ..	—	8	8
(e) Staff Canteens ..	—	1	1
(f) Fuel Storage Depot	—	1	1
TOTALS ..	—	65	65

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed		TOTAL
	Males	Females	
Offices	27	25	52
Retail Shops ..	64	110	174
Wholesale Depts. Warehouses ..	—	—	—
Catering Establishments	2	15	17
Staff Canteens ..	—	9	9
Fuel Storage Depots ..	1	—	1
TOTALS	94	159	253

RODENT CONTROL

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The Council continue to employ a part time rodent operative, and inspections and treatments have been satisfactorily carried out.

There was a marked increase in the number of rodent infestations compared with the previous year, in domestic properties and on the Council's refuse tips where major infestations had to be dealt with.

The following table gives details of the premises which have been inspected and or treated during the year.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district..	2526	343
2. a Total number of properties (including near by premises) inspected following notifications	301	Nil
b Number infested by		
(i) Rats	235	—
(ii) Mice.. .. .	7	—
3. a Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification..	270	40
b Number infected by :		
(i) Rats.. .. .	64	2
(ii) Mice.. .. .	1	—
SEWERS		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ?	No	

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

At present there are five licensed sites in the area. One major site at Blenkinsopp Castle which accommodates 65 caravans (40 holiday and 25 residential), and four sites for individual caravans only.

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

Common Lodging Houses

In September the keeper of the Common Lodging House at The Manse, Haltwhistle, intimated that he would not be applying for a renewal of the licence for the premises. The Common Lodging House was therefore closed.

Places of Entertainment, Circular 120 Ministry of Health

Number of Cinemas	1
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Pet Animals Act 1951

There are no premises in the district registered under this Act.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

No formal action was necessary under this Act.

Clean Air Act, 1956

A few complaints, all of a minor nature, were received during the year and were dealt with informally.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964

In the district two persons are registered as Scrap Metal Dealers.

General Administration

A total of 554 personal callers making enquiries and complaints were received by the Public Health Department during the year, all matters arising were dealt with.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Council House Applications	133
Council Housing (General)	124
Housing (Improvement Grants)	301
Housing (General)	113
Meat Inspection	48
Food Inspection	9
Food Premises	157
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises ..	29
Milk Sampling	1
Ice Cream Premises	26
Drainage	21
Factories	88
Infectious Diseases	19
Caravan Sites	28
Nuisances	61
Pest Control	64
Refuse Collection	270
Common Lodging Houses	12
Water Supplies (General)	7
Water Supplies (Sampling)	3
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises :	
Offices.. .. .	47
Shops	110
Catering Establishments	40
Staff Canteens	6
Fuel Storage Depots	1
Miscellaneous	45
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	1,763
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